GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4370
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2008
PROMOTION OF YAKSHA GANA DANCE
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is true that 'Yaksha Gana' a dance and drama cultural play which is most popular among Tenku, Badagu and Bada people of Karnataka is gradually disappearing;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government proposes to promote this unique form of dance and drama; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE(SMT. AMBIKA SONI)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) & (d) Sangeet Natak Akademi, an autonomous organization of the Ministry of Culture, has been presenting Yakshagana in Akademi festivals/programmes etc. held in Delhi and other parts of the country. Sangeet Natak Akademi has also been sponsoring Yakshagana in festivals of the other organizations of the country. Financial assistance is also being provided by the Akademi for production of yakshagana plays. Apart from performance support and financial assistance, the Akademi has also been honoring artists in the field of Yakshagana. National School of Drama, another autonomous organization of Ministry of Culture, has included Yakshagana in its curriculum. Depending upon the text of the plays, the Yaksha Gana elements are also used in the productions by the students and the Repertory Company of National School of Drama.Zonal Cultural Centers have also been supporting this traditional art form.